

status, if you choose to look at the second page of today's agenda, you'll see a few changes in that overall financial status as we now sit. Obviously, if you look on appropriations side, the fourth line there, since LB 1272 has failed to advance, a week ago that was showing as \$1.7 million decrease in expenditure, because actually that would be a decrease. Since that bill failed to advance, actually what happened, that 1 billion, 584 increase by \$1.7 million to make things work out. But as you work through that, if you look to the very bottom, even with that \$1.7 million out, if we pass all the bills on...above General Fund, as well as 1022, it all can fit within the 3 percent reserve, we will certainly be about \$1.5 million over the Governor's recommended spending level if we do everything as we...if we do not pass anything with 1272 and pass everything now at Select on Final Reading it would be about \$1.5 million over the Governor's recommended spending level. You can make it fit for this biennium, but as I say that you have to look out at the next biennium as you can see that given our present figures and at least the fiscal office's revenue assumptions, next year we're going to talk about \$25 million budget reductions to make things balance with a 3 percent reserve for the next biennium, each of the years, so a \$50 million problem for the biennium, \$25 million each year to make things balance. And so having said all that, I would ask for adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members. I won't belabor the point, except I wanted to make one point on the first thing on the Health Department with regard to the Drinking Water Act. I just wanted to, I guess, alert the body that next year one of the areas we'll be discussing, not only on the floor, but in Appropriations Committee is how best to treat the, or handle the increased costs that are going to be coming because of the increased mandatory testing of drinking water across the state. And this cash fund allocation simply allows them to move forward. And one of the things that Senator Moore referred to was the idea of some options that we may have as we probably phase into this, is what our hope is. But there's going to have to be some subsidization of the laboratory, or there's going to be extra high costs associated with having water tested by the municipalities across the state. And I just simply wanted to make a point of that issue because we are going to be spending more money in this area.